



## From theory to practice: A Canadian case study of the utility of climate change adaptation frameworks to address health impacts

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### Abstract:

**OBJECTIVE:** It is now recognized that climate change affects human health. The question is how to adapt. This article examines mainstreaming climate considerations into public health programs and the utility of climate change and health adaptation frameworks, using Ontario, Canada, as a case study. **METHODS:** A literature review identified climate change and health adaptation frameworks for comparison with the Ontario Public Health Standards. Key informant interviews gauged the extent to which climate change risks are currently considered in policy and planning. **RESULTS:** Ontario's Public Health Standards already require many of the risk management activities identified in climate change and health adaptation frameworks. However, public health officials require additional information about linkages between climate change and health to manage risks. **CONCLUSIONS:** Risk management activities such as population health assessments, surveillance and public education and outreach can address many key risks related to climate hazards when information about the risks, vulnerable populations and time scales is made available to health officials. The development, analysis and transfer of this information should be considered a priority at all levels within the public health sector.

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### Resource Description

#### Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Policymaker

#### Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

#### Geographic Feature: ☒



# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal



resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

## Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Non-U.S. North America

## Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

## Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

## Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

## Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

## Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified